



# NOTICE OF APPLICATION FORM

## Office of Public School Trustee

### APPLICANT INTEREST

Please explain why you feel you should be the successful candidate for the position of Trustee, Wards 1, 2 and 3 (maximum 1000 words). Outline your commitment to public education as reflected in your involvement in Greater Essex County District School Board public schools or its committees, including your background, qualifications, interests, experience, and experience that support your candidacy.

I am honoured and thrilled to have the opportunity to apply for the position of School Board Trustee for Wards 3, 4, and 10 with the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB). As a lifelong resident of Windsor, an individual with a significant disability who was educated within the GECDSB, a proud parent to a twice-exceptional child who is thriving within the GECDSB, and someone who has spent countless hours volunteering within the GECDSB, representing the diverse needs of our community within this role is a natural fit.

It is my firm belief that the officials that represent our communities should be representative of the diversity that exists within the community they serve; and should represent a strong voice for those populations who may otherwise not be heard. As a member of the BIPOC community and mother of a bi-racial child with dual learning exceptionalities, I am acutely aware of the unique challenges that can arise when navigating the education system within this realm not only as a student, but as a parent. Moreover, as a person who is blind, I am also acutely aware of the challenges that arise as a student with a significant disability, and the sometimes-insurmountable fear that arises from learning to self-advocate.

Over the years, I have been engaged in various initiatives both at the local school and board levels whereby I have been able to help push forward the mandates and goals of the GECDSB. Of note, I served on the Greater Essex County District School Board Parent Involvement Committee (GECPIC) and as the Chair of the John A McWilliam Public School's School Advisory Council (SAC) for several years, where, among many things, I was able to create, promote and facilitate the delivery of various workshops surrounding student mental health, wellbeing, and learning success. Moreover, I had the distinct pleasure of working with the GECDSB on the Anti-Racism Regulation Committee whereby I was able to interface with community leaders in this space to ensure equity is upheld within the policy creation at the Board.

In my work as the Clinical Director for a multi-location clinic serving Southern Ontario, I have had the privilege of not only providing mental health supports to innumerable children and adolescents in the communities we serve; but have played an integral role in the assessment and development of supports for countless students diagnosed with learning disabilities, ADHD, and neurocognitive disorders. This role has naturally also engaged me in the important task of coaching parents through navigating our education system and advocating for their children's right for learning success.

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Name of Applicant Malini Ondrovcik

My commitment to addressing the diverse needs of my community goes beyond my professional life and has taken shape through various volunteer initiatives not only within the local community, but also at a provincial and national level. At the provincial level, I worked directly with my professional regulator, the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario, in driving forward their commitment to fostering an inclusive environment, promoting fairness in regulation, and advancing the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including accountability to the public. At the national level, I serve as Ontario Co-Chair of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind's Strategic Leadership Council which is focused on fostering an understanding of blindness and dispelling misconceptions about people who are blind; removing barriers to create safe, accessible journeys for all; and giving parents and children the support they need to excel both within and outside of the classroom. These initiatives have held great importance to me, not only because of the work we have accomplished as a team, but because of the struggles I have had to overcome within these realms in the absence of support and advocacy—it remains my goal to find opportunities where I can break down barriers for others and help them thrive.

As detailed in my resume and evidenced by the above, it is clear that my personal and professional experience and goals align directly with the strategic plan, mission, and vision of the GECDSB, and as such, it would be an honour to serve the community in a role where I could put my expertise to work for the students and families of my home, Windsor-Essex.